

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 through 5 to read, as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image bearing member on which an electrostatic image is formed;
a developing device, which develops the electrostatic image in a developing
position, which is opposite to said image bearing member, device containing developer
including toner and carrier; said developing device including a developing container having
a first chamber for developing an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member;
and a second chamber constituting a developer circulating route, route between said second
chamber and said first chamber; a developer carrying member rotatably provided in said
first second chamber for carrying the developer to develop the electrostatic image, and an
agitating and carrying member provided in said second chamber and having a spiral vane
provided around a rotary shaft to agitate and carrying the developer;

a rotary member holding said developing device and rotatable in a route including
said [[a]] developing position;

supplying means for supplying the developer to said developing device, which is in
said developing position;

an opening, opening provided above an upper end of said spiral vane of said
agitating and carrying member in said second chamber in a state in which said developing
device is in said developing position, for outwardly discharging therethrough excess
developer resulting from the supply of the developer by said supplying means through said
opening to an outside of said developing device; and

an agitation promotion portion, provided on said rotary shaft of said agitating and carrying member in a vicinity of said opening, for agitating the developer, developer;

an opening and closing member for opening and closing said opening by operation of gravity with the rotation of said rotary member; and

a wall portion provided in said second chamber and being opposite to a space created by an opening of said opening and closing member near said opening and closing member on a side of said opening and closing member, said wall portion protruding toward an inside of said second chamber.

2. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising an opening and closing member provided at said opening to be pivoted by operation of gravity, said opening and closing member being moved to a position to open said opening when said developing device is in said developing position, wherein said wall portion is provided between said opening and said carrying member so as to narrow a developer containing space in said second chamber.

3. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a wall portion provided in a vicinity of said opening in said second chamber, said wall portion protruding toward an inside of said second chamber. 2, wherein said opening is located above said wall portion such that the excess developer can be discharged through said opening.

4. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to Claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein said agitating and carrying member is in the form of a plate, ~~second chamber~~ includes a substantially U-shaped cross section, and said wall portion is provided so as to protrude from a straight portion of the U-shaped cross section toward said carrying member side:

5. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to Claim 4, ~~[[1,]] further comprising a plurality of~~ agitating and carrying members provided on said rotary shaft, ~~developing devices held by said rotary member, wherein said rotary member locates any one of said plurality of developing devices held by said rotary member in said developing position:~~

6. **(Canceled)**